

# The Santa Clarita Valley Contemporary Car Club Newsletter



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## Words from the President

By Dick LaGrasta, President

Hello there fellow car club members....

I would like to welcome you all to the first "Words from the President" in 2004; and the first order of business is to wish you all a very "Happy New Year!" I am hoping this year turns out to be a more active year than 2003. In 2003, we had some very serious medical complications that plagued not only my family, and myself, but also other members of the car club board of directors. It made it very hard to go about getting the needed things done to promoted more activities for the club. Overall, 2003 was not a bad year, but I think what we have in store for you this year will make up for last year.

There is also a "new way of doing club business!" It takes away the burden of trying to "be everything to everyone," off the clubs directors backs and lets the club members pre-plan and decide whether to participate in what activities. In other words, there will be a SCVCC calendar that will have most of all the club's functions. I say "most," because there may be an impromptu cruise here and there throughout the year on a spur of the moment notice. Also, listed will be the recurring "runs" such as "In-N-Out" Burgers," "The Coffee Grind," etc. So, if you have nothing going on and we decide to run for coffee and a doughnut on a Sunday morning; or perhaps gather on a Wednesday evening at "In-N-Out" Burgers, you'll know in advance if you can participate or not. For Shows and Museum trips, the dates and times will be put on the calendar, where the club will meet and when it will depart for our destination. There will be no guessing needed. You show up and you go. You don't show up and you don't go! Simple huh? This calendar will be available to all club members on our website, and all you have to do is look up the month and you'll see what is planned. This should make it easier for all of you to make your plans.

Many other car clubs use this system and it sure beats the heck out of the old way of trying to get a group of people together for a cruise. We used to tell members at the car club meetings; or tried to leave a message on members' phones; or asked members to tell members about our next cruise. Let's face it. We are never home and sometimes the answering machine is "out to lunch" and you don't get the message. That can cause some bad feelings because you wanted to go but never got the message! Well those days are gone forever and I won't shed a tear over that kind of disaster. It literally drove me nuts trying to figure how many cars were going on a cruise, and if my message to members got



*"There is .... a new way of doing club business!"*

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### Cruises :

- **Auto Spa**—  
First Saturday
- **Route 66**—  
Second Saturday
- **Burger King**—  
Fourth Saturday
- **In-N-Out Burgers** —  
Every Wednesday
- **The Coffee Grind** —  
Every 4th Sunday Morning

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## Words from the President (Continued)

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through or not! You can print the calendar from the website or we will have a paper copy available for you at our monthly club meetings. That way the calendar is available to you so that you can "physically" add your own "go or no go" circled dates. In other words, instead of always looking at the website calendar, you'll have one in your hot little hands that you can put up on the refrigerator (like most of us I assume) or anywhere that is convenient for you. If you need one and can't make one of the club meetings, we can send you one by "snail-mail." But here is the catch. You have to let us know that this is what you want.

Also, always read the club's "monthly minutes" that will be emailed to you right after the monthly club meetings. There is always a bunch of information that our "lovely car club secretary" (the talented and most appreciated Eileen Keating) puts together for all members to read. So please, take advantage of this way of getting information. It is there for you!

Speaking of "lovely people", our newly elected Cruise Director, "Mz. Rikki" Kirchner is about to take over the controls and this hopefully will make things easier for her. She has a fairly big workload to start with here. So, any help that we can give will be surely appreciated. Rikki has been going to various car shows throughout the years and has made many friends and has found out which shows are "really cool" and which ones may not be to our liking. I have the utmost faith in Rikki and I am sure she will make a great club cruise director. We in turn can be of great help to her by let-

ting her know of any special events that you may know or hear of throughout the year. Please, don't be afraid to contact Rikki with your information if you think it would be a fun cruise or event for the car club. We are all in this together, and it really helps if you have club members that want to get involved. Maybe we'll be able to use your ideas and maybe we won't. It all depends on time constraints and what we already have going on our calendar. So please, do not hesitate on these matters and just let us know ASAP!

The month of February will be a month of compiling information for our cruise director, and with there usually being "an oddball weather pattern" throughout March into April (read: wet, cold and gloomy). We cannot expect too much in the way of cruising except that "impromptu cruise" I talked about earlier. You know the type of day, when the sun is out and the weather is warm, but only for a little while and then the next day the weather sucks! We will try to get a hold of as many of you as possible on short notice to take that cruise, maybe for brunch or lunch. We'll just have to wait and see and "play it by ear." But, play we will! Make sure you check your email for any info Rikki or I may have for you, if at all possible.

This should pretty much get things going for the beginning of what I hope to be a real good year for The Santa Clarita Contemporary Car Club. With your help, understanding and patience, we should all enjoy a good year of car club fun! Take care everyone!

Sincerely, *Dick*

## Board Member Contact List

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Dwight / Jodi Emerson	Co-Treasurers	(661) 296-6541	dwightemerson@earthlink.net
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Eileen Keating	Secretary	(661) 296-7424	keatingre@earthlink.net

## 2003 Christmas Dinner Party

By Dick LaGrasta, President

The SCVCC Christmas Dinner Party was a wonderful success. Although there was half of the usual amount of people in attendance, those who were able to make it had a great time! The food that showed up at the dinner table was unreal! "Rattler's BBQ" once again managed to satisfy our craving for a good Christmas dinner! The appetizers that showed up from club members were fantastic too! It really was a fun time for all and the gift exchange only added to the fun and excitement. Perhaps next year we can have the pleasure of more car club members in attendance.



## 2003 Christmas Dinner Party (Continued)



# The Philosophy of Car Restoration

By John Baird (from [autoestorer.com](http://autoestorer.com))

I was debating with my friend John, a dilemma I was having with the dash clock of my 1967 Malibu. As you might have guessed, it didn't work. Of course it didn't work. Everyone I have ever seen was broken. One would like to know if any of them ever worked? Just the sheer number of broken dash clocks tooling around the American roads leads me to believe that they never worked. When my Great Aunt Ruth first drove the '67 I have now off the show room floor, I'm sure she looked at the dash to see the time and it read the same 17 minutes after 3 that it does now. What does this have to do with philosophy, what is this philosophy, and what place does philosophy have under the hood of a rusty Chevy? I hope to answer all three of these questions for you, but first, back to the clock debate.

We weren't debating whether or not to fix it. We were debating how to fix it. You see, if I had it rebuilt with quartz movement, as John suggested, I could not consider my car a "complete" restoration. If I repaired the corroded connections, changed the coils, and lubed the gears, I could achieve "complete" restoration status. Conversely, I would have a clock that I am convinced would eventually have to be fixed again. So, do I follow John and have a partially restored car, or do I repair a mal-engineered piece of crap and cause myself years of hassle?

The solution eluded me yet my problems did not end with my inability to measure time. This was only a symptom. The problem was spread much further than that. In fact, it was spread over the entire car. It was the paint. You see if I was to succeed in a complete restoration, everything must be as it was in 1967 when the car was new. This posed a tremendous problem to me. I did not want my car to have a 1967 type paint job. I wanted my car to shine and glimmer in the sunlight like the new cars I see today. Yet this still was only a symptom, though, as odd as it may seem, this was the prima facie of my root dilemma. Now, if your mind is reeling with how a clock and the paint of a 1967 Malibu could ever be related don't worry I assure you that they are.

It was only after the problem with the paint that I finally realized what I was looking for. I was not looking for a complete restoration of reality. I was looking for a restoration of fantasy. I do not want my car to be as it was in 1967. I want it to be as I imagined it in 1967. These are two very distinct things. My mind has concocted a vehicle that has never existed, and that is what I want. I want the paint to shine with a modern clear

coat, and I want the hands on the clock to actually move in some sort of rhythmical pattern. The car in my mind is better than it was in 1967 because my mind has grown accustomed to the technological advances of modern cars. It has burned these things into the mental picture of my dream car. This car is actually a hybrid of the beauty of the past and the function of today. It is this, and that unyielding ideal of a complete restoration that was causing all of my problems. I realized that the cars that we've been sweating, bleeding, and sometimes crying over are now substandard. Let's face facts. If our beloved cars were actually sold, as they were new on the lot next to cars of today, they would never gain a second glance. Yes, the chrome and sharp distinct style lines would gain interest, but it would be apparent at first glance, that when held to today's standards, they're crap. The paint would not glimmer, the brakes would be laughed at, safety is non-existent, the engines and suspension could not even be compared on the same sheet, and, of course, the clock still would not work.

So, does this mean that all is lost? That we should scrap the whole idea of restoration, buy Volvos, and put the all the money we've been using on our cars in low risk mutual funds? **Not on your life!** As hopeless as our situation may appear, have no fear. Though I stand upon the precipice of automobile oblivion, facing sure motivational destruction, I am able to turn adversity into salvation with my philosophy of car restoration. This philosophy involves almost no effort, no pain, and no Volvos (you may still want to do that mutual fund thing though). It's as simple as this: Build the car you want to build. It's your car. Do what you want. Don't worry about "complete restorations" and other such silliness. Unless, of course, that's what you want. Don't let some silly notion that your car has to be either this or that creep up and destroy the car you've been dreaming of. Those silly notions are just that, silly. They are created by people who don't own your car. They own their own car. The one in their head. The beauty of this hobby is that those cars our minds have created are as distinct as we are. It doesn't matter if you want to turn your Pacer into a 500 horse asphalt chewer, or if you want a lime green Camaro. The cars you have in your garage are just like you, one of a kind. As for me, I plan, very shortly, to be driving my sleek shiny beautiful Malibu down a twisting country road with nowhere to be and no time to be there. Of course, if I did, I would be able to look down at my cash clock and be assured I would get there on time.

## Upcoming Events

- **February 24th** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **March 23rd** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **April 3rd** - The Road'ers Car Club Show @ Kenneth Village Merchants Association - 3 pm @ Kenneth Rd & Sonora Ave & Grandview Ave. in Glendale
- **April 25th** - Coastal Valley CHVA - 15th Annual Spring Car Show for Guide Dogs of America - @ Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage - 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles (across from the LA Zoo in the grass) - 10:00 am to 2 pm - no pre-registration - \$10.00 @ the gate - registration from 8:00 -10:00 am - space is limited, so arrive early. Full lunch available thru the Autry Museum
- **April 27th** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **May 8th** - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 pm to 9 pm.
- **May 25th** - SCVCCC Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Margaritas Restaurant - 6 pm dinner, 7 pm Meeting
- **June 6th** - Pacific Palisades Auto Show - 10 am to 3:30 - Pre-registration \$20.00 - check in 7 to 9 am
- **June 12th** - Route 66 Classic Car Show - 5 pm to 9 pm.
- **June 19th** - The Annual SCVCCC Picnic & Meeting @ The Arnold's Home (Tentative)

## January Meeting Minutes

Margaritas Restaurant  
January 28, 2004  
By Eileen Keating

This is our first night at Margaritas Restaurant for our club meeting and dining. We had a great turnout with about 29 members showing up early to have dinner. The food was delicious and everyone seemed to order lots of goodies.

The meeting was called to order a little after 7 pm and started with Old Business: (1) The club board members will stay as it is, except Rikki Kirchner is now the new Cruise Director. (2) Some of our 2003 club members have left the club, because they are moving: Gary & Marti Davis, Dave & Veronica Zelman are moving out of state and Brian White, who is moving to Irvine because of his company has relocated. (3) Our new club members were introduced. They are Rick & Shawn Rose, Tom & Karen Henry & returning to our group is Charles Griffin. (4) The Emersons gave the financial report and we are still solvent.

New Business: (1) A club calendar was distributed tonight, for ones who hadn't received them by e-mail or from our club website. It will let us know when things are scheduled for upcoming cruises & activities. It will be pre-scheduled so you will know what, when &

where we will be going in 2004. The Cruise Director will be responsible for cruise setup and Rich Soto will design and keep the calendar current. (2) Rich Soto is our Webmaster he will update the website as per event dictates. Updates will be added, such as additions to the calendar and upgrades to club members cars. Rich will make arrangements for taking pictures of the new members cars. He needs a little story about their cars to be put in the newsletter and the website. Also if you want to update your car's info, contact Rich. The newsletter will be published every other month and will be delivered by e-mail. (3) Club members will vote on suggestions given out with the events schedule being set up by majority of members present at future meetings. Our first board meeting was held at the Arnold house, where the board members came up with a list of suggestions of places to go: The Edelbrock Mfg. Co, Tom Sparks' home with his collection of cars, the Otis Chandler Museum in Oxnard, the NHRA in Pomona, the Peterson Museum, the Museum of Television, Radio, Arts & Sciences in Hollywood, and the John Force Museum in Yorba Linda. The Club Picnic will be June 19 with the time and place to be determined. The Christmas Party will be December 11 with the light tour on December 18. The Gene Autry Museum tour will probably be April 25th. Be sure to keep a check on your club calendars to find out when & where the activities are

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## January Meeting Minutes

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"happening". The Pacific Palisades Car Show also will be coming up June 6th. An additional suggestion was Parnelli Jones who is putting together a museum. The Road'ers Car Club Show will be Saturday, April 3 at Kenneth Village Merchants Association at 3 pm at Kenneth Rd & Sonora Ave & Grandview Ave. in Glendale. There will also be the 4th Saturday Cruise in Palmdale several times during the year (not too often in summer as it's too HOT up there). The 4th of July Show in Fillmore & also a possible club function to Medieval Times in Buena Park. We are planning on the Palm Springs weekend in October and we will be making the reservations early. (It will be an overnighter). These are just a few things that are on our list for setting dates up on the

calendar. For some events, like club meetings, Janet or Phil Arnold have volunteered to do some phone reminders. (4) The Burbank Kiwanis Club Car Show is also a good event to attend. Mark Reese is going to try to get us a tour of the Boron Borox mines, sometime before or after the "summer heat."

The club logo shirts were put up for sale tonight and are available if you need one. Nothing is scheduled for February, so far on the new club calendar. But keep a watch for upcoming cruises, trips & such. The meeting came to a closed a little before 8 pm with the announcement that next month's meeting will be the 4th Tuesday of the month. That would be the 24th of February. The 50-50-pot winner tonight was Jane Bettencourt-Soto, who won \$14.50.

Visit us on the Web @  
WWW.  
ContemporaryCarClub.org

